1/18/94

Mr. Mike Powell
News-Post
Frederick, Md 21701,

Dear Mike,

I ~~had~~ deliberately understated in the enclosed letter not to be as inflammatory as is justified. And, in confidence, not to make problems for the people at the lab, who have just stopped calling dangers to the attention of Dr. Frizzell's office. He is responsible for the building.

Many lab patients go there with empty stomachs, so they get there early. Until a couple of months ago, even the stairs lacked illumination before daylight.

A large percentage of the people who go there are older and more inclined to fall, from darkness or from ice. And more inclined to break bones if they do. Those cheapskates have created a disaster waiting to happen and are insolent and insulting when the dangers they create are called to their attention. As though that should be necessary! In a medical building yet, with the few toilets stinking the place up from time to time.

A fairly large number of those who go to the lab for blood testing are kept alive, as I am, by the anticoagulent coumadin. In the course of time we develop the most fragile skin. Mine tears back on the slightest contact. Today a coat-hanger ~~hanger~~ peeled the skin on the back of my hand back a half inch from slight contact. Larger, much larger areas of this are not uncommon. While I have no reason to believe that those not on this essential medication for the 19 years I have been are as vulnerable, it is inevitable. So, aside from broken bones those of us who are more unstable are also much more vulnerable.

Those uncaring owners of that building are so indifferent they are even skimpy on handicapped parking places. There is not a single one in that large parking area for lab patients. That cost them only the slight charge for time and paint. And caring a little for the source of their income, the patients.

There is more but this should be enough, I hope. I hope also that you can find space for this before someone really pays for that greed with the kind of weather we are having and seems to want to stay with us.

Thanks,

Harold

Harold Weisberg